

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 00951 221540Z

42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P 221441Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7030

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

S E C R E T AMMAN 0951

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, JO, US, MO, IR

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE FOR MOROCCO

REF: STATE 041786

1. I REVIEWED WITH PRIME MINISTER RIFAI MORNING FEBRUARY 22 ON POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL.

2. I HAD JUST RECEIVED PRIOR TO MEETING WITH RIFAI LETTER FROM HIM REQUESTING TRANSFER AUTHORITY FOR 36 RECOILLESS RIFLES AND 20 F-5A AIRCRAFT. LETTER WILL BE FORWARDED SEPTEL. RIFAI SAYS THE FORM OF INTENDED TRANSFER WILL BE BY GIFT (GRANT) AND THE EQUIPMENT WAS OBTAINED IN THE CASE OF RECOILLESS RIFLES THROUGH THE MAP PROGRAM AND IN THE CASE OF THE AIRCRAFT BY GIFT FROM IRAN. WE WILL RE-SEARCH THESE POINTS WITH JORDANIAN MILITARY AND CONFIRM THEM ALSO IN SEPTEL.

3. RIFAI TOLD ME THAT HE HAS DISCUSSED QUESTION WITH MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR WHO HAS RETURNED TO RABAT ON CONSULTATION. RIFAI SAYS JORDAN HAS ASKED MOROCCO FOR A LETTER STIPULATING MOROCCO'S AGREEMENT TO REPLACE THE F-5A'S ONE-FOR-ONE BY F-5E'S AND SETTING FORTH A DELIVERY SCHEDULE FOR THE F-5E'S. FURTHER, RIFAI HAS ASKED MOROCCANS TO NOTIFY THE US ALSO IN WRITING OF THIS ARRANGEMENT.

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4. TRANSFER HAS CAUSED SOME UNHAPPINESS IN JORDANIAN AIR FORCE, CHIEF OF WHICH COMPLAINED TO ME ON SOCIAL OCCASION ABOUT EFFECTS OF TRANSFER ON HIS TRAINING PROGRAMS AND AIR FORCE MORALE. I RECOMMENDED THAT HE REPORT HIS CONCERNS TO CHIEF OF STAFF AND KING. APPARENTLY HE DID SO, CITING ME AS SUPPORTING HIS ARGUMENTS. WHEN RIFAI REPORTED THIS TO ME, I WAS ABLE TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT, TELLING HIM THAT I HAD ONLY ADVISED HIS CHIEF OF AIR FORCE TO RAISE THE ISSUE WITH HIS MILITARY SUPERIORS AND THAT TO THE EXTENT THAT TRANSFER OF AIRCRAFT ACTUALLY DISTURBED LOCAL TRAINING PROGRAMS, I TOO PERSONALLY WOULD REGRET THE EFFECT. HOWEVER I EMPHASIZED THAT THIS WAS A JORDANIAN JUDGMENT AND WANTED RIFAI TO BE SURE THAT WE WOULD COOPERATE AND WORK WITH JORDAN IN WHATEVER THEY WANTED TO DO ABOUT THE PROPOSAL. RIFAI INDICATED HE UNDERSTOOD MY POSITION AND THAT I HAD BEEN MISQUOTED BY CHIEF OF AIR FORCE, WHO HAD EVIDENTLY ASSUMED THE TRANSFER WOULD CAUSE VERY SERIOUS CONGRESSIONAL COMPLICATIONS FOR JORDAN. SINCE I HAD JUST FINISHED TELLING RIFAI WASHINGTON'S JUDGMENT ON POSSIBLE CONGRESSIONAL IMPLICATIONS, HE UNDERSTOOD THAT POINT AND I TOLD HIM AS WELL THAT CHIEF OF AIR FORCE HAD PROBABLY BECOME CONFUSED WITH ANOTHER CONVERSATION WE HELD CONCERNING CONGRESSIONAL COMPLICATIONS WHICH MIGHT RESULT SHOULD JORDAN OBTAIN MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM COMMUNIST SOURCES. PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

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